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JEWISH EDUCATIONAL COURSE, No. 2.

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THE

JEWISH CHILD'S FIRST CATECHISM

OF

BIBLE HISTORY.

ADAPTED [FROM PINNOCK]

TO THE CAPACITY OF YOUNG MINDS.

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Colonies.*

PHILADELPHIA :

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MILLER'S BIBLE AND PUBLISHING HOUSE.

5635-1875.

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Advertisement to the First Edition.

A Catechism of Bible History, suited to the capacity of young minds, has long been a desideratum among us; and this little publication is intended to supply it.

It has been, no doubt, in consequence of the absence of such, that Pinnock's "*Catechism of Bible and Gospel History*," as I have had opportunity to observe, has been so extensively used in English and other Jewish families. Pinnock's Catechism is, unquestionably, well adapted for its purpose; but that purpose was, evidently, not to impress upon the young Jewish mind, Jewish views of Bible narrative. In addition to the extreme simplicity of its language, and that useful and important feature—the geographical questions—it has this additional advantage, that the answers seldom exceed one or two lines, and are, therefore, suited to the most ordinary capabilities of children. Hence it was deemed useful and desirable to adapt this work for Jewish schools; and accordingly, I do not hesitate recommending it to the best consideration of the Jewish public, believing that its use would be productive of much good. Larger and more difficult books, experience has shown to be above the capabilities of, and therefore useless to, this class of young learners, who are, as a consequence, obliged to delay, till a period much later than is really necessary, their acquaintance with the historical teachings of that book which is their inheritance.

ABRAHAM DE SOLA.

Montreal, Adar Rishon, 5613. }
March, 1853. }

Advertisement to the Stereotyped Edition.

The former editions of *The Jewish Child's First Catechism of Bible History* having become exhausted, and as I have been very generally assured by Parents and Superintendents of Schools in the United States, Canada, West Indies, and Great Britain, that the book has proved of much practical utility, and has found great acceptance with all, I now issue another edition from stereotyped plates, in a larger type and with various other improvements, in the trust and expectation that it will subserve the cause of Bible learning in our midst.

ABRAHAM DE SOLA.

Montreal, Adar, 5626. }
March, 1866. }

THE
JEWISH CHILD'S FIRST CATECHISM
OF
BIBLE HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.

Question. WHO made you and all the world ?

Answer. God.

Q. What is this world called ?

A. The Earth.

Q. What did God call the light ?

A. Day.

Q. What did He call the darkness ?

A. Night.

Q. What did He call the sky ?

A. The heavens.

Q. What did He call the gathering together of the waters ?

A. Seas.

Q. What did He call the dry land ?

A. Earth.

Q. For what purpose did God make the sun ?

A. To give light by day.

Q. For what purpose did He make the moon ?

A. To give light by night.

Q. What creatures did God make to live in the sea ?

A. Fishes of all sorts.

Q. What creatures were made to live in the firmament ?

A. Fowls and birds of every kind.

Q. What creatures to live upon the earth ?

A. Beasts, insects, and reptiles.

CHAPTER II.

Q. WITH what did God make the first man ?

A. The dust of the earth.

Q. With what did He make the first woman ?

A. With one of the man's ribs, taken out of his side, while he slept.

Q. How long was God creating the world and all that it contains ?

A. Six days.

Q. What did He do on the seventh day ?

A. He rested on the seventh day, and blessed it.

Q. What was the name of the first man ?

A. Ad'am.

Q. What was the name of the first woman ?

A. Eve.

Q. Where did God put Ad'am and Eve after he had made them ?

A. In a pleasant garden called E'den. 1

Q. What command did God give Ad'am and Eve when he put them into the garden ?

A. Not to eat the fruit of a particular tree.

1 Q. Where was the garden of Eden supposed to have been situated by some ?

A. In Chaldea, on the north of the Per'sian Gulf, near the present Bassora in Asiat'ic Turkey. (*Grotius, Wells.*)

Q. What was the tree called ?

A. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Q. Did they obey God ?

A. No ; they ate the fruit.

Q. Who ate it first ?

A. Eve, and then gave some to Ad'am.

Q. Who tempted Eve to eat the fruit ?

A. The serpent.

Q. How did God punish Ad'am and Eve for eating the fruit ?

A. He drove them out of the garden of E'den, and told them that they should die.

Q. Did God inflict any further punishment for such disobedience ?

A. Yes. He decreed that they and the whole human race should henceforth labor for their necessities.

Q. Repeat the words which God used on this occasion.

A. "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground ; for out of it wast thou taken : for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

Q. How were Ad'am and Eve clothed after they left the garden ?

A. God made them coats of the skins of beasts.

CHAPTER III.

Q. WHO were Cain and A'bel ?

A. The two first sons of Ad'am and Eve.

Q. In what manner did mankind display their devotion after the fall ?

A. By offering burnt sacrifices to God.

Q. How did they do this ?

A. By killing a lamb, and burning it upon an altar.

Q. Why did they do this ?

A. To show their gratitude and reverence for their Creator.

Q. What is meant by the Fall ?

A. The disobedience of Ad'am and Eve, by which all mankind became subject to death.

Q. Were Cain and A'bel both good ?

A. No ; Cain was wicked.

Q. What did he do ?

A. He killed his brother A'bel.

Q. Why did he kill him ?

A. Through envy, because his sacrifice was accepted, and Cain's was not.

Q. What happened to Cain after being so wicked ?

A. He left his country, and went to live in a foreign land.

Q. To what country did he go ?

A. To the land of Nod. 2

CHAPTER IV.

Q. WHAT was the flood ?

A. When the world had become more fully peopled and they were all grown very wicked, God

2 Q. Where was the land of Nod supposed to have been situated ?

A. In that part of A'sia now called Per'sia. [And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of E'den.]—*Genesis* iv. 16.

sent a great deal of rain to drown them all; it filled all the earth, and was called the flood.

Q. Was everybody wicked?

A. There was only one good man.

Q. What was his name?

A. No'ah.

Q. Did God drown him?

A. No; God told him to build an ark, a kind of vessel to float upon the waters; and to go into it with all his family, and some of all kinds of creatures.

Q. What were the names of No'ah's three sons who went into the ark with him?

A. Shem, Ham, and Ja'pheth.

Q. How long was the rain coming down from heaven?

A. Forty days and forty nights.

Q. When the waters abated, where did the ark rest?

A. Upon the top of the mountain called Ar'arat. 3

Q. When No'ah wanted to know if the waters were gone, what did he do?

A. He sent a dove out of the ark, but it could not find a place that was dry to rest upon, and it came back again to the ark.

Q. What did No'ah do then?

A. He sent it out again seven days after, and it came back with an olive leaf in its mouth.

3 Q. Where was Mount Ar'arat?

A. In Arme'nia, in the northern part of the present Per'sia.

Q. When did No'ah send it out again ?

A. Seven days after, and it did not come back any more ; so No'ah knew that the waters were gone.

Q. When the waters were gone, what did God tell No'ah to do ?

A. To go out of the ark, with all his family, and all the creatures it contained.

Q. What did God promise to No'ah ?

A. That He would not destroy the earth again by a flood.

Q. What did He say should be a sign to make mankind remember His promise ?

A. The rainbow.

CHAPTER V.

Q. When the flood was over, how many persons were left in the world ?

A. Eight.

Q. Who were they ?

A. No'ah and his wife, and his three sons and their wives.

Q. Were No'ah's sons, Shem, Ham and Ja'pheth, all good ?

A. No ; Ham was a wicked man.

Q. What did the children of No'ah's sons do ?

A. They began to build the Tower of Ba'bel. 4

4 Q. Where was the tower of Ba'bel ?

A. In the city of Ba'bel, or Bab'ylon, which was situated on the river Euphra'tes, in Babylo'nia. The city of Bab'ylon was built by Nim'rod, the son of Cush, and enlarged by the celebrated queen Semir'amis, who is said to have employed two hundred thousand men to encompass it with a wall, in which were one hundred brazen gates, and was forty five-miles in circumference. Bab'ylon is also famous for the death of Alexander the Great.

Q. What was the tower of Ba'bel ?

A. A tower which they meant to build as high as heaven.

Q. Why did they wish to build it as high as heaven ?

A. To save themselves from being drowned, in case God should send another flood.

Q. Did God let them finish their work ?

A. No ; He confounded their language, so that they could not understand one another.

Q. What did they do then ?

A. They all went to different parts of the world ; and dispersing themselves as each understood the other, formed several tribes and nations ; for before this, all the descendants of No'ah constituted a single people.

CHAPTER VI.

Q. WHO was A'braham ?

A. A son of Terah, the pattern of believers, and the friend of God.

Q. Who was Sa'rah ?

A. A'braham's wife.

Q. What did God command A'braham to do ?

A. To leave his country, and to go to a land which God would show him.

Q. Did A'braham obey God ?

A. Yes ; he went to the land of Canaan. 5

Q. Whom did he take with him ?

A. His wife Sa'rah, and his nephew Lot.

5 Q. Where was the land of Canaan ?

A. In the south-west part of Asiatic Turkey. The land of Canaan at different times, has had the several names of *The Land of Promise, The Land of Is'rael, Pal'estine, Jud'ea, and The Holy Land.*

Q. What did A'braham's and Lot's servants do ?

A. They quarrelled.

Q. What did A'braham and Lot consider it best to do on this account ?

A. They thought it better to part.

Q. Where did Lot go and live ?

A. In a city called Sod'om. 6

Q. What promise was renewed to A'braham after this event ?

A. God promised that A'braham should be the father of a great nation.

Q. What was the name of A'braham's first son ?

A. Ish'mael.

Q. What was the name of the other son promised by God to A'braham when he was an old man ?

A. I'saac.

CHAPTER VII.

Q. WHAT was the character of Ish'mael ?

A. He was a rude boy, and behaved ill to I'saac, and was sent away from home with his mother Hagar.

Q. What was the name of the great town near Sod'om ?

A. Gomor'rah. 7

6 Q. Where was Sod'om ?

A. In the plains of Jor'dan, in the land of Canaan. These plains have been overflowed with water, and become a lake, now called the Dead Sea.

7 Q. Where was Gomor'rah situated ?

A. A little north of Sod'om in Canaan, in that part now called the Dead Sea—Gomor'rah was considered the second city of Pentapolis, and Sod'om the first. Pentapolis is from the Greek, signifying a country of five cities, which name was given to Sod'om, Gomor'rah, Ad'mah, Ze'boim and Zo'ar. These were all destroyed by fire from heaven, except Zo'ar, which was saved through the intercession of Lot with the Almighty.

Q. In what manner did the Almighty punish the wickedness of the people who lived in these towns ?

A. He sent fire from heaven and consumed them both, and all their inhabitants.

Q. Did He burn Lot ?

A. No ; He told him to go out of Sod'om, with his wife and his two daughters.

Q. What happened to Lot's wife ?

A. She looked back, though God had ordered her not, and wanted to return to Sod'om ; for which God turned her into a pillar of salt.

Q. Where did Lot go and live with his daughters ?

A. In a cave near the city of Zo'ar. 8

CHAPTER VIII.

Q. WHEN I'saac was grown, what did God command A'braham to do ?

A. To kill him and offer him up as a sacrifice to Him.

Q. Where did God tell him to do this ?

A. Upon one of the mountains in the land of Mori'ah. 9

Q. Why did he order A'braham to kill his son ?

A. To show the world that A'braham loved God, and would obey His commands.

8 Q. Where was Zo'ar situated ?

A. In Canaan, on the southern part of the Dead Sea. It has had the several names of *Bella Salis'sa* and *Ba'al Salis'sa*.

9 Q. Where was Mount Mori'ah ?

A. Mount Mori'ah was situated near the gates of Jerusalem.

12 THE JEWISH CHILD'S FIRST CATECHISM

Q. Did A'braham obey God ?

A. He would have done so, but just as he was going to kill his son, an angel prevented him ; so A'braham took, and sacrificed, instead of his son, a ram that was caught in the bushes.

Q. What has A'braham been called for his obedience to God ?

A. The Father of the Faithful.

Q. What was the conduct of A'braham when very old, and he wished his son to marry ?

A. He sent his steward to another country, called Mesopota'mia 10, to find a wife for I'saac.

Q. What did the steward take with him ?

A. A great many things upon camels for presents.

Q. When the camels had gone a great way without water, what did the steward do ?

A. He stopped at a well, and kneeled down, and prayed to God that the woman who was to marry I'saac might come and draw some water for him and his camels.

Q. Who came to the well ?

A. Rebek'ah, who offered to draw some water for him and his camels.

Q. Who was Rebek'ah ?

A. The daughter of a nephew of A'braham.

Q. What did the steward do then ?

A. He gave her some presents, and went home with her, and her father and mother gave her leave to go with the steward.

10 Q. Where was Mesopota'mia ?

A. Mesopota'mia, a district to the east of Canaan, was situated between the rivers Ti'gris and Euphra'tes.

Q. When Rebek'ah arrived in the land of Canaan what did she do ?

A. She married I'saac, and was a very good wife to him.

Q. Did Sa'rah live to see her son I'saac married ?

A. No ; she died before he was married.

Q. To what age did A'braham live ?

A. To the age of a hundred and seventy-five years.

Q. Where did his sons bury him ?

A. In the cave of Machpe'lah 11, where his wife Sa'rah was buried.

CHAPTER IX.

Q. How many sons had I'saac and Rebek'ah ?

A. Two : E'sau and Ja'cob.

Q. Which was the elder ?

A. E'sau.

Q. What can you tell me about E'sau ?

A. One day when he came home from hunting, very hungry, he saw his brother had boiled a mess of pottage, or broth, and he sold his birthright to Ja'cob for the broth.

Q. Why did Ja'cob make this bargain with his brother ?

A. Because he wished to be the father of the great nation which God had promised to A'braham.

Q. Did I'saac know that E'sau had sold his birthright ?

A. No.

11 Q. What was Machpe'lah, and where situated .

A. Machpe'lah was a field or plain, situated before He'bron in the south of Canaan—He'bron at one period, was the capital of Idume'a, the royal residence of David.

14 THE JEWISH CHILD'S FIRST CATECHISM

Q. When I'saac was very old, and quite blind, what did he tell E'sau to do ?

A. He told him to go and get some venison, and dress it, and bring it to him, that he might bless him before he died.

Q. What did Rebek'ah do ?

A. She heard what I'saac said to E'sau, and she told Ja'cob to dress himself up in E'sau's clothes, and get some meat, and cook it like venison, and take it to his father, that he might bless him before E'sau came home.

Q. Was I'saac deceived ?

A. He was : and he prophesied that the posterity of his son Ja'cob would be blest above his brother's race.

Q. When E'sau came home, what did he do ?

A. He was very angry with his brother, and said, as soon as his father was dead, he would kill him.

Q. What did Rebek'ah tell Ja'cob ?

A. To go to Pa'dan-a'ram, 12 a place a great way off, that his brother might not kill him.

CHAPTER X.

Q. What happened to Ja'cob on the first night of his journey ?

A. He laid himself down on the ground, with only a stone for his pillow, but God gave him a comforting dream.

12 Q. Where was Pa'dan-a'ram ?

A. Pa'dan-a'ram is the same as Mesopota'mia, which is some times called Sedan-a'ram.

Q. What did he dream ?

A. He dreamed that he saw angels going up and down between earth and heaven, and God promised him that in his seed all the families of the earth should be blessed ; and that He would bless him wherever he went, and bring him back to his native land.

Q. When Ja'cob awoke, what did he call the place ?

A. Bethel. 13

Q. Where did Ja'cob go then ?

A. To Pa'dan-a'ram, to the house of his mother's brother.

Q. What was his name ?

A. La'ban.

Q. What did he do there ?

A. He married La'ban's two daughters.

Q. What were their names ?

A. Le'ah and Ra'chel.

Q. How many children had he ?

A. Twelve sons and one daughter.

Q. How long did Ja'cob stay with La'ban ?

A. Twenty years ; and then set out with his wives and children to go to Canaan.

Q. What did E'sau do when he heard his brother was coming back ?

A. He went to meet him with four hundred men.

13 Q. Where was Bethel ?

A. In Canaan. It was first called *Luz*, but Jacob gave it the name of Beth'el which signifies the House of God. It was afterward called Beth-a'ven, which means the House of Idolatry.—*Hosea* iv. 15.

Q. When they met, what happened ?

A. God softened E'sau's heart ; and he was glad to see his brother, and they were reconciled.

Q. Did Ja'cob find his father I'saac alive ?

A. Yes, but he died some years after.

Q. Where was he buried ?

A. In the cave of Machpe'lah, where his father A'braham was buried.

Q. Do you recollect how many sons Ja'cob had ?

A. Twelve.

Q. What was the name of the youngest but one ?

A. Jo'seph.

CHAPTER XI.

Q. WHAT do you recollect about Jo'seph ?

A. He was a very good young man, and his father loved him better than his elder brothers, which made them very jealous, and they resolved to kill him.

Q. Did they kill him ?

A. No ; Reu'ben, one of his brothers, persuaded them to put him into a pit, intending to take him out when they were gone.

Q. Did they leave him in the pit ?

A. No ; some people came by, who bought men and women for slaves, and they sold Jo'seph to them.

Q. What did they tell his father Ja'cob ?

A. That his darling was killed by a wild beast ; and they dipped his coat, which was of many colours, in blood, to make him believe it.

Q. Where did the people who bought Jo'seph take him ?

A. To E'gypt. 14

Q. What happened to him in E'gypt?

A. At first, he suffered great distress: but he behaved so well, that Pha'raoh, 15, king of E'gypt, made him governor of that kingdom in accordance with God's will.

Q. How did he meet his brothers again?

A. There being a famine in their own country, his brothers came to E'gypt to buy corn.

Q. What did Jo'seph do when he saw his brothers?

A. He knew them, and forgave them, and sent them to fetch their father, that they might all come, and settle in E'gypt, and be provided for by him.

Q. What were Ja'cob's children called?

A. Is'raelites; because Is'rael was one of Ja'cob's names

CHAPTER XII.

Q. WHEN the good king Pha'raoh died, what happened to the Is'raelites in Egypt?

A. There was another king Pha'raoh, who did

14 Q. Where is E'gypt situated?

A. In the north-east part of Africa. This country was formerly one of the most celebrated in the world, and is said to have contained twenty thousand cities; but at present it is divested of its ancient grandeur, and its inhabitants are so degenerated, and sunk into such a state of ignorance, that we can scarcely believe that it was once a seat of learning and the arts. In consequence of the overflowing of the Nile, E'gypt is remarkable for its fertility. It is called *Mizra'im* in Hebrew, after Mizra'im, the son of Ham, who was the founder of the nation.

15 The word Pha'raoh was a common name of the kings of Egypt, as Cæsar was among the Romans; ten kings of the name of Pha'raoh are mentioned in Scripture. It is pronounced *Faro*.

not fear God, and he used the Is'raelites very ill, and made them his slaves; and he ordered that all their little boys should be thrown into the river.

Q. Did any of the Is'raelites disobey this cruel edict?

A. One of them named Am'ram, and his wife Joch'ebed, concealed their infant son for more than three months.

Q. What did they do at the end of that time?

A. Fearing that he would be found and drowned, they made a cradle of bulrushes, and laid him down by the river side, trusting in God to preserve him.

Q. What happened to him?

A. Pha'raoh's daughter found him, and took him and brought him up as her own child.

Q. What name did she give him?

A. The name of Moses.

Q. Why did she give him that name?

A. On account of the manner in which she had found the infant; for Mo'ses signifies "taken out" of the waters.

Q. Whom did she take for his nurse?

A. His mother Joch'ebed.

Q. What was the name of Mo'ses' brother?

A. A'aron.

Q. When Mo'ses was grown up, what did God tell him to do?

A. To take his brother A'aron with him, and go to Pha'raoh, and tell him he must let the people of Is'rael go.

Q. Did Pha'raoh let them go?

A. No; he said he did not fear God, and would not let them go.

Q. What did God do ?

A. He sent many plagues to make him fear Him, and at last killed all the eldest sons of the Egypt'ians in one night.

Q. Did Pha'raoh let them go then ?

A. Yes ; but after they were gone, he was sorry for it, and went after them with his army.

Q. Where did he come up with them ?

A. On the borders of the Red Sea. 16

Q. How did the Is'raelites get through the Red Sea ?

A. God divided the waters, and they went through on dry land.

Q. What happened to Pha'raoh ?

A. He went after them ; but God brought all the waters back upon him and drowned him with all his army.

CHAPTER XIII.

Q. AFTER God had delivered the Is'raelites out of E'gypt, whom did He appoint to be their leader ?

A. Mo'ses.

Q. How did He show them which way He wished them to go ?

A. He caused a cloudy pillar to go before them in the day ; and a pillar of fire in the night.

16 Q. Where is the Red Sea, and why is it so called ?

A. The Red Sea is situated between E'gypt and Ara'bia, and is so called from the word *E'dom* which signifies *red*. E'sau having sold his birthright to his younger brother Ja'cob for some *red* pottage, he was afterwards named *E'dom* or *Red* : and the country which he resided in, received his name. Hence this sea was called the *Red Sea*, as it was situated on the borders of *E'dom* ; and it was through the north part of it that the Is'raelites passed when they escaped from Pha'raoh.

Q. How did God feed them ?

A. He rained manna from heaven, to serve them instead of bread.

Q. What was manna ?

A. A delicious kind of food.

Q. How did He give them drink ?

A. Twice, when they were thirsty, He caused water to flow from a stony rock.

Q. Where did God give them the Ten Commandments ?

A. Upon the top of a mountain, called Mount Si'nai. 17

Q. In what manner were the Commandments given ?

A. God wrote them upon two tables of stone, and gave them to Mo'ses.

Q. What was there particular about Mo'ses when he came down from the mountain ?

A. His face shone so brightly that the people could not look at him.

Q. When God had given to Mo'ses the Commandments and other laws, what did He tell him to do ?

A. He commanded him to erect a tabernacle, which was a sort of tent, for public worship.

Q. What did God tell Mo'ses to do to his brother A'aron ?

A. To anoint him to be high priest, and his sons to be priests under him. God also commanded Mo'ses to set apart the tribe of Le'vi for the service of the tabernacle.

17 Q. Where is Mount Si'nai ?

A. In Ara'bia Petræ'a.

CHAPTER XIV.

Q. WHAT was the principal thing kept in the tabernacle?

A. The ark of the covenant.

Q. What was the ark of the covenant?

A. A small chest, covered with gold, the lid of which was called the mercy-seat.

Q. What was kept in this ark?

A. The two tables of the law.

Q. When the people of Is'rael were journeying through the wilderness, how did they know when they were to stop, and when to go on?

A. When the pillar of cloud, which was always over the tabernacle, moved, they knew they were to go on; when it stood still, they knew they were to stop, set up the tabernacle, and pitch their tents.

Q. How did the people of Is'rael behave after God had delivered them from the E'gyptians?

A. They murmured and rebelled against God, whenever they were in any difficulty.

Q. How did God punish them?

A. He said that all the men who came out of E'gypt, except Josh'ua and Ca'leb, who were faithful, should die in the wilderness; but that their children should take possession of Canaan.

Q. Where did A'aron die?

A. Upon Mount Hor 18, and Elea'zar, his son, was made high priest in his stead.

18 Q. Where was Mount Hor?

A. In the north part of Ara'bia Petra'a, bordering on Canaan.

Q. Did Mo'ses go into the promised land ?

A. No ; but God gave him a view of it from Mount Pis'gah, 19, and he died in the land of Moab. 20

CHAPTER XV.

Q. WHEN Mo'ses was dead, whom did God appoint to be the leader of the people of Is'rael ?

A. Josh'ua.

Q. What was the name of the first town they took possession of in the land of Canaan ?

A. Jericho. 21

Q. Did they take it without resistance ?

A. No ; the people resisted them, but God gave them possession of it by a miracle.

Q. What was the miracle ?

A. God ordered them to carry the ark of the covenant round the town for six days, and on the seventh, the priests were to blow their trumpets and the people shout ; and when they had done this, the walls of the town fell flat to the ground ; and they went in and took possession of it.

Q. Was Josh'ua a good man ?

A. Yes ; he lived to an old age, and was regretted when he died.

19 Q. Where was Mount Pis'gah situated ?

A. In the land of Mo'ab, to the east of the river Jordan.

20 Q. Where was the land of Mo'ab ?

A. In Ara'bia Petrà'a, situated to the east of the Dead Sea.

21 Q. Where was the city of Jer'icho situated ?

A. In the land of Canaan, about twenty-three miles from Jerusalem.

CHAPTER XVI.

Q. AFTER the death of Josh'ua, what was the behaviour of the next generation of the people of Is'rael?

A. They did not remain faithful to God, but worshipped idols, and did not destroy the nations that were left in the land of Canaan.

Q. How were they punished for their transgressions?

A. God delivered them over into the hands of the heathen nations, by whom they were cruelly harassed.

Q. How did they act in their distress?

A. While oppressed by calamity they remembered their sins, and besought pardon from their offended God; and the Lord sent them deliverers who freed them from the power of their enemies.

Q. Did they show themselves grateful for this deliverance?

A. No; as soon as they found themselves in safety, they again fell into idolatry, and provoked the anger of the Almighty by their manifold transgressions.

Q. What was the civil state of the country?

A. There was no king in Is'rael, and every man did that which seemed right in his own eyes; consequently, the country was distracted by many atrocious outrages, which it was scarcely possible to prevent.

Q. What was the external condition of the country?

A. When the protection of God was withdrawn,

24 THE JEWISH CHILD'S FIRST CATECHISM

the Is'raelites suffered severely from the invasions of the hostile nations which surrounded the land of Ca'naan.

Q. Who were the most powerful of their enemies ?

A. The Philis'tines. 22

Q. Who were the Philis'tines ?

A. A people of the southern part of Canaan.

Q. Did God suffer the Philis'tines to overcome them ?

A. No ; he raised up a very strong man whose name was Sam'son ; he was so strong that he could kill a lion as easily as a lamb.

Q. What proofs of strength did he give ?

A. He could fight with hundreds of men at once. When he was shut up in the city of Ga'za 23, he took the gates of the town upon his shoulders, and carried them away.

Q. Was Sam'son a good man ?

A. He was frequently seduced to transgress the divine law ; and once to punish him, God deprived him of his strength ; when Sam'son thus lost the assistance of the Almighty, he fell an easy prey to the Philis'tines, who threw him into prison, and put out his eyes.

Q. What did he do then ?

A. He repented, and prayed to God, and God

22 Q. Where was the land of the Philis'tines ?

A. On the sea coast to the south-west of Canaan.

23 Q. where was the city of Ga'za situated ?

A. In the southern part of Canaan, on the borders of the Mediterranean Sea. It was in this city that Camby'ses deposited his riches when he went into E'gypt.

gave him his strength again; but the Philis'tines did not know it.

Q. What did the Philis'tines do?

A. They one day sent for him to the temple of one of their idols, and he laid hold of the two pillars which supported it, and pulled the building upon them, and destroyed them all.

Q. Did Sam'son die with them?

A. Yes: God suffered him to be killed, because he had been wicked.

CHAPTER XVII.

Q. Is the history of any private family introduced among the historical books of Scripture?

A. Yes; The book of Ruth contains a very affecting narrative of the life of a widow named Naomi and her daughter-in-law, Ruth.

Q. Why is this narrative introduced?

A. To show the origin of the royal family of David from which the Messiah is to be descended.

Q. How did Naomi and Ruth become acquainted?

A. Naomi's husband removed with his two sons into the land of Mo'ab; and soon after the young men became married to Or'pha and Ruth. In a short time, however, Naomi witnessed the death of her husband and children, and determined in consequence to return to her own country.

Q. In what manner did Naomi's daughters-in-law behave?

A. One remained at home with her own kindred,

but Ruth refused to be parted from Naomi; saying "Whither thou goest I will go, thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."

Q. On their arrival in Jude'a, how did Ruth behave?

A. She worked as a gleaner in the fields, for her own and Nao'mi's support.

Q. Did any remarkable circumstance occur there?

A. Yes; her beauty and modesty attracted the attention of Bo'az, a near relative of her deceased husband; having made inquiries respecting her condition, he sought and obtained her as his wife.

Q. What was their son's name?

A. O'bed the grandfather of David, who became king of Is'rael, and from whom the Mes'siah is to be descended.

Q. Who was Han'nah?

A. A very good woman, who lived in the days of E'li.

Q. Who was E'li?

A. High-priest and judge of Is'rael.

Q. What is meant by the land of Is'rael?

A. The land of Is'rael comprehended all Canaan 24, which God gave for an inheritance to

24 *The Land of Canaan* was so called because it was first peopled by the descendants of Canaan (the son of Ham.)—It received the name of *The Land of Promise*, because God promised to give it to the descendants of A'braham, I'saac and Ja'cob.—It was called the *Land of the He'brews, Is'raelites*, or *Is'rael*, since the time of Josh'ua, who divided it among the twelve tribes of Is'rael.—In the time of Reho'boam, the son of Sol'omon, it was divided into two kingdoms, that of *Is'rael*, and *Jud'ah*, and continued so till the inhabitants were led in

the descendants of Ja'cob, afterwards called the children of Is'rael.

Q. What can you tell me about Han'nah ?

A. She had no children, which made her very unhappy ; and she prayed to God that He would please to let her have a child ; her prayers were heard, and she had a son.

Q. What name did she give him ?

A. The name of Sam'uel.

Q. What do you know about Sam'uel ?

A. As soon as he could speak, his mother taught him to fear and love God : and when he was about four years old brought him to E'li, and told him she wished him to spend his whole life in serving God ; so E'li took him to live with him, and Sam'uel grew wiser and better every year.

Q. What did God do with Sam'uel ?

A. At length He made him his prophet ; that is, He employed him to tell the people of Is'rael what He chose they should do.

Q. Did the people of Is'rael remain satisfied with Sam'uel as their Judge ?

A. No ; at last they insisted upon having a king, which was very foolish and wicked, as God was their king ; but as they wished it, the Lord said they should have a king.

captivity to Bab'ylon and Assy'ria ; but after their return, it received the name of *Jude'a*, from the tribe of Jud'ah.—It was called *Phœni'cia* and Pal'estine by the Greeks and Romans. The name of the *Holy Land* was given to it on account of the many miracles wrought there, in manifestation of God's revelation. Phœni'cia comprised also a considerable portion north of Ca'naan, which included Tyre and Si'don.

Q. Whom did God choose to be king ?

A. Saul, the son of Kish, of the tribe of Ben'-jamin.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Q. WHAT can you tell me about Saul's being made king ?

A. He was travelling in search of some asses his father had lost, and he went to Ra'mah, to the house of Sam'uel, who anointed him king, as the Lord commanded : afterwards when Sam'uel presented him to the people of Is'rael as king, they shouted, and said, God save the king !

Q. Was Saul a good king ?

A. At first he was a very good king, and subdued all their enemies ; but afterwards grew proud, and despised the commands of God, who sent Sam'uel, the prophet, to tell him that he would take his blessing from him, and give it to a better man than he : after which he could not conquer the enemies of Is'rael, and was very unhappy to the end of his life.

CHAPTER XIX.

Q. WHO was Da'vid ?

A. Da'vid was the son of a man named Jes'se, who lived at Beth'lehem. 25

Q. Was Da'vid a good youth ?

A. Yes, he loved God with all his heart.

Q. What can you tell me about Da'vid ?

25 Q. Where was Beth'lehem ?

A. About six miles from Jerusalem.

A. When Saul proved wicked, God chose Da'vid to be the next king of Is'rael, and sent Sam'uel to anoint him, but did not let him come to the throne till after Saul's death.

Q. Can you tell me anything remarkable that Da'vid did?

A. When he was a very young man, there was a war between the Is'raelites and Philis'tines; and among the Philis'tines was a monstrous giant named Goliath of Gath 26 who frightened Saul and his people very much; but Da'vid, trusting in God, went to fight the great giant, and killed him, with no other weapon than a sling and a stone.

Q. What did he do after he had killed the giant?

A. He cut off his head, and then the Is'raelites were delivered from their enemies.

Q. After this, what happened to Da'vid?

A. Saul was very jealous of him, and would have killed him, if the Lord had not many times delivered him out of his hands; at last, Saul was killed in a battle, and Da'vid was made king of Is'rael.

Q. What great town did Da'vid build?

A. He built Jerusalem, 27 upon Mount Sion.

Q. Of what was Da'vid particularly fond?

A. He was very fond of playing upon the harp and singing to the glory of God; and he wrote a

26 Q. Where was Gath?

A. A noted city of the Philis'tines; about thirty-two miles from Jeru'salem.

27 Q. What was Jeru'salem?

A. Jeru'salem was the capital of Jude'a. It is supposed to have been founded in the year of the world 2035, by Melchiz'edeck.

number of Psalms, which are now read and sung in our houses and synagogues.

CHAPTER XX.

Q. WHO was Ab'salom ?

A. One of Da'vid's sons.

Q. Was he a good young man ?

A. No ; he liked better to follow idle sports than to serve God, and he did not love his good father : he wished the people to make him king instead of Da'vid, and raised an army to fight against his father.

Q. Did Da'vid love his wicked son ?

A. Yes ; and begged all his officers to save his life.

Q. Did God suffer him to go unpunished ?

A. No ; as he was riding, his hair, which was very long, caught in the boughs of an oak, and the mule left him hanging to the tree, by his hair, till Jo'ab, one of Da'vid's officers saw him, and killed him with a spear.

Q. Did Da'vid rejoice at Ab'salom's death ?

A. No ; he lamented, and said, " Oh ! that I had died for thee ! Oh ! Ab'salom, my son, my son ! "

Q. When Da'vid was an old man, what did he do ?

A. He made one of his sons, whose name was Sol'omon, king in his stead, and soon after died.

CHAPTER XXI.

Q. WHAT can you tell me about Sol'omon ?

A. That he was the wisest man that ever lived, and while he honored God, he was a very powerful monarch.

Q. What remarkable thing did he do ?

A. He built a magnificent temple, for the worship of God, at Jerusalem, on Mount Mori'ah, where A'braham offered up his son I'saac.

Q. What was the temple called ?

A. Sol'omon's Temple.

Q. Did Sol'omon continue a good and wise king ?

A. No ; he became vain of his wisdom, and set up idols for the people of Is'rael to worship, which made God very angry, and he told Sol'omon that he would take the kingdom from his family. So Sol'omon lost the favor of God, and was very unhappy during the rest of his life.

CHAPTER XXII.

Q. WHO succeeded Sol'omon ?

A. Rehobo'am, his son, who was a very foolish prince, and took the advice of young persons, and told his subjets he would use them ill.

Q. What was the consequence of this folly ?

A. A great many of the people made Jerobo'am, one of Sol'omon's officers, their king.

Q. What was the consequence of this ?

A. The kingdom of Is'rael was divided into two parts, one of which was called the kingdom of Jud'ah, and the other the kingdom of Is'rael.

Q. What was the kingdom of Jud'ah ?

A. The Tribes of Jud'ah and Benjamin, who remained faithful to Rehobo'am.

Q. What was the kingdom of Is'rael ?

A. The other ten tribes, who made Jerobo'am their king.

Q. Was Jerobo'am a good king ?

A. No ; he was very proud and wicked ; he made two golden calves for the people to sacrifice to, instead of God ; he set up one in Dan 28, and the other in Beth'el.

Q. What can you tell about this ?

A. As Jerobo'am was offering a sacrifice to the calf of Beth'el, God sent a prophet to him to tell him that his altar would be destroyed ; Jerobo'am put out his hand to lay hold on the prophet ; but God caused Jerobo'am's hand to wither, and the altar was split in pieces.

Q. What effect had these miracles upon Jerobo'am ?

A. He entreated the prophet to pray for him, who did so ; and his hand was restored ; but Jerobo'am did not amend his conduct.

Q. What city did Omri build ?

A. The city of Samaria. 29 After Jerobo'am's death a number of kings reigned over Is'rael ; but the glory of the nation was taken away, because the king and the people did not obey God.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Q. WHO was A'hab ?

A. One of the kings of Is'rael. He was a wicked man, and his queen, who was named Jez'ebel, did not love the Lord, and worshipped idols.

28 Q. Where was Dan ?

A. The city of Dan was situated near the head of the river Jor'dan, in the north of Canaan.

29 Q. What was Sama'ria ?

A. Sama'ria, situated about the centre of Canaan, was the capital of the province of Sama'ria ; at that period, it was the seat of the kings of Is'rael.

Q. Who was Eli'jah ?

A. A very good man, who lived in the days of A'hab, and Jez'ebel, and God made him a prophet, that is, sent him to foretell things that were to happen at a future time, and to tell the people of Is'rael that they must worship God, and forsake idols.

Q. Did A'hab and Jez'ebel attend to what Eli'jah said ?

A. No ; they were so angry with him, that they attempted to kill him, but God told him to go to a place where they could not find him, and sent him food every morning by ravens.

Q. Did Eli'jah remain in this place ?

A. No ; God sent him to Za'rephat, a city near Sidon 30, where he was sustained by a poor widow woman, for whom, by the inspiration of God, he performed a miracle.

Q. What was this miracle ?

A. There was a great famine in the land, and the poor widow had nothing but a handful of meal and a little oil, which she was going to make into a cake, that she and her son might eat their last morsel together, expecting afterwards to die ; but Eli'jah, through God's permission, made her handful of meal and little cruse of oil last till the famine was over.

30 Q. What was Si'don and where situated ?

A. Si'don (or Zidon) was a very famous city, the capital of Phœnicia, founded by Si'don the son of Canaan. The city has been always famous for its great trade and navigation ; and the invention of glass, linen, and a beautiful purple dye is attributed to it. At present it is called Sai'de, and belongs to the Turks, but it has no resemblance to its ancient grandeur.

Q. Did Eli'jah perform any other miracle for this poor widow?

A. Yes; when her son died he was restored to life again at the prayers of Eli'jah.

Q. Did Eli'jah continue faithful to God?

A. Yes; and God rewarded him, by taking him up to heaven in a chariot of fire, without his dying.

Q. What happened to A'hab and Jez'ebel?

A. King A'hab was killed in a battle, and his wicked queen Jez'ebel was thrown out of a window, and killed on the spot, and the dogs devoured her.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Q. WHO was Eli'sha?

A. Eli'sha was the servant of Eli'jah, and after Eli'jah was taken up to heaven, he became the prophet of God in Eli'jah's room, and was a very good man.

Q. What can you tell me about him?

A. Some wicked children laughed at him, and behaved very rudely to him, and God sent two great bears, which tore them to pieces.

Q. What happened to the kingdom of Is'rael?

A. The kings and people continued very wicked, and gave themselves up to idolatry; therefore God suffered them to be carried away prisoners into a strange land. An end was thus put to the kingdom of Is'rael, but the kingdom of Ju'dah remained.

Q. Were the kings of Ju'dah, who reigned after Rehobo'am, good?

A. Some were good, and some were wicked;

and God sent many prophets to them, telling them that if they did not repent they would be punished.

Q. Mention some of these prophets ?

A. Isa'iah, Jeremi'ah and Eze'kiel.

Q. Did the people attend to the prophets ?

A. No ; and at last, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Bab'ylon 31, sent great armies against Jerusalem, and burnt it to the ground, with the fine temple which Sol'omon had built.

Q. What happened to the king ?

A. King Zedeki'ah and all the people that were not killed, were carried away captives, and the kingdom of Ju'dah was destroyed ; but God promised that after seventy years, Jeru'salem should be rebuilt.

CHAPTER XXV.

Q. WHO reigned over the kingdom of Bab'ylon at this time ?

A. King Nebuchadnezzar.

Q. What remarkable miracle was performed by God in his reign ?

A. Three of the captive Jews, named Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego, were delivered safe out of a fiery furnace into which they had been thrown by the king's orders.

Q. Why did he cause them to be put there ?

A. Because they believed in the true God, and would not bow down and worship an image of gold which Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

31 Q. Where was Bab'ylon ?

A. It was situated on the river Euphra'tes.

Q. What followed ?

A. When the cruel king saw that the Almighty had preserved them, and that not a hair of their heads was singed, he was so struck with the power and justice of God, that he immediatly ordered they should be set at liberty, and commanded his subjects, in future, to revere the only true and living God.

Q. Who was Dan'iel ?

A. One of those who had been carried captive into Bab'ylon ; who, being a very good young man, God chose him to be a prophet, and he gained the favour of Dari'us, king of Per'sia. 32

Q. What can you tell me concerning Dari'us, and Dan'iel ?

A. Some ungodly people persuaded Dari'us to give orders that nobody should say their prayers for thirty days under pain of being cast into a den of lions : Dan'iel prayed to God as usual, and was cast into the den.

Q. Did the lions kill him ?

A. No ; in the morning, when Dari'us, who was very sorry for what he had done, went to the den, he found that God had prevented the lions from hurting him.

Q. What did Dari'us do then ?

A. He took Dan'iel out of the den, and ordered the wicked people who had advised him to be so cruel, to be thrown in, and the lions devoured them immediatly.

32 Q. Where is Per'sia ?

A. In Asia, but the boundaries of the ancient Per'sia were by no means so extensive as the present.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Q. WHAT were the Is'raelites called, when they were captives in Bab'ylon ?

A. Jews.

Q. Why were they called Jews ?

A. They were so called from Ju'dah their ancestor.

Q. What happened to the Jews at the end of seventy years from the destruction of Jeru'salem ?

A. They were set at liberty by Cy'rus, king of Per'sia, who gave them leave to go back to their own land, and to rebuild Jeru'salem, and their temple.

Q. Did they finish it in the reign of Cy'rus ?

A. No ; they were continually prevented by their enemies ; especially the Samaritans, but at last Ez'ra was permitted to conduct the Jews to their native land.

Q. Who interceded for them in the days of Ahasue'rus ?

A. Esther, the queen, at the instance of the good Mordecai ; and in consequence of the success which followed her intercession and the delivery of the Jews from their arch enemy, Haman, we joyfully observe the days of Purim.

Q. What did Ez'ra do for them ?

A. He taught the Jews the book of Scripture, and instructed them in their duty ; but they afterwards grew neglectful of it, and God made them suffer greatly ; but as they did not quite forsake him, it pleased him yet to raise up deliverers for them.









